

France expels more Iranians

PARIS (R) — France has expelled three Iranian nationals employed by the Iranian Islamic Cultural Centre in Paris and is holding five others pending expulsion, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The French government ordered the closure of the centre on Friday and expelled three Iranian diplomats linked to it for "activities incompatible with their diplomatic status." Iran retaliated on Sunday by ordering three French embassy officials to leave the country. Interior ministry officials said the eight Iranians detained on Friday in addition to the three diplomats ordered to leave were youths whose activities at the centre were incompatible with their status as residents in France. Three were put on a plane to Tehran on Saturday and the other five were being held by police pending the next available flight out of Paris, they said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الراي من المؤسسة الصحفية العربية "الراي"

Volume 8 Number 2450

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28, 1983 — RABIA AL AWWAL, 23, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Denmark, Holland aid UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The governments of Denmark and the Netherlands Tuesday announced their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) for its reconstruction programme in Lebanon which is estimated to cost \$13 million. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Denmark made a contribution of \$613,000 while Holland's donation amounted to \$30,000, bringing the total amount pledged for the programme so far to more than \$5.4 million, the agency added.

Muslims seek to standardise dates of religious rites

ANKARA (R) — Officials from 12 Muslim countries opened talks here Tuesday on ways to standardise observance of religious festivals. Observance of religious holidays, fasts and other occasions in Muslim states around the world is generally based on sightings of the moon, resulting in different countries starting them on different days. The talks are attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algiers, Tunisia, Qatar, Senegal, Bangladesh, Iraq, Malaysia, Indonesia and Jordan.

Oman replaces 2 ministers

MUSCAT (R) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman has appointed two new ministers in a cabinet change that goes into effect on Jan. 1, according to a royal decree issued here. Selim Abdullah Al Ghazali was appointed minister of commerce and industry to replace Mohammad Zubair who was named special adviser to Sultan Qaboos. Ahmad Suwaidan Al Baluchi was appointed minister of posts, telegraphs and telephones to replace Karim Ahmad Al Hamri.

Iran to try 13 more Communists

TEHRAN (R) — Thirteen more alleged members of the military wing of Iran's outlawed Communist Party went on trial Tuesday charged with spying and attempting to overthrow the Islamic republic, the afternoon newspaper Kayhan reported. They were the fifth batch of alleged Communists to appear before the armed forces' revolutionary court. It has already tried 31 people, beginning with former Navy Commander Bahram Afzali on Dec. 6, but no verdicts have yet been announced.

Cannon components stolen in Paris

PARIS (R) — The components for a 30-millimetre rapid-fire cannon were stolen from a freight depot at Charles de Gaulle airport during Thursday night, the defence ministry said Tuesday. The ministry denied press reports that the cannon had been destined for Lebanon. Radio reports later said it had been made in Tulle, central France, for a Spanish purchaser. Informed sources said the theft happened while police and security forces at the airport were engaged in an anti-terrorist exercise.

INSIDE

- Middle East problems forecast in the Bible, page 2
- Finance Ministry to re-examine building and land tax, page 3
- Continuing Gulf war and Iranian trend threaten region's stability and world peace, page 4
- Arab World inflation will come down in '80s, says Jordan Central Bank governor, page 5
- Liverpool enjoys double escape, page 6
- Andropov criticises Soviet industry, page 7
- Namibian rebels launch offensive. Pretoria says, page 8

Arafat, PLO aides discuss future plans

SANA'A (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Tuesday held talks here with other guerrilla leaders as he planned his next moves in a struggle to stay leader of the Palestinian movement and in the search for settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tuesday may be postponed.

Arafat meets Saleh

Following his arrival in Sana'a, Mr. Arafat met North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He said he plans an early visit to key Arab states including Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

But PLO sources said he was Tuesday morning still at his closely-guarded residence in the North Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

Palestinian sources here said Monday night members of the PLO's military wing had flown in from the organisation's headquarters in Tunis for the strategy talks with Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat arrived in North Yemen Monday in one of the ships which evacuated him with 4,000 loyalist fighters from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli, where he had been under siege for six weeks by Syrian-backed PLO rebels.

He said Monday that he would announce new directions in Palestinian policy after consultations here but the PLO sources said a press conference scheduled for

TEL AVIV (R) — One Israeli policeman and possibly three Arab commandos were killed during the night in a clash in the South Lebanese city of Sidon, a military spokesman said.

He said an Israeli patrol spotted a commando squad preparing to plant a roadside bomb and the clash occurred in the shooting that followed.

One policeman was wounded, he added. He said he did not know if any of the commandos had survived.

The clash occurred in one of the eastern neighbourhoods of Sidon, which has been the site of the almost daily attacks on Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon.

The policeman's death brought to 561 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since the June 1982 invasion, according to official figures. A total of 3,192 Israelis have been wounded, the figures indicate.

On Monday four Israelis were wounded in attacks in south and east Lebanon.

Syria denies minister dead

DAMASCUS (R) — The official Syrian News Agency SANA Tuesday quoted "information sources" as denying reports that Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad had died in hospital here.

A spokesman at the Harasta hospital told Reuters Monday night that Mr. Iskander, who underwent brain surgery for a tumour in London, and has been chronically ill for a long time, had died.

SANA said Tuesday: "Information sources here today denied reports that Mr. Ahmad Iskander Ahmad, the minister of information, has died.

"The sources insisted that the minister is at the hospital in the intensive care unit and is in dangerous condition."

Mr. Iskander, one of President Hafez Al Assad's right-hand men, became information minister at the end of 1974.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Farouq Al Sharif has been the acting information minister for the last six months.

Mr. Iskander, like Mr. Assad a member of the Alawite sect, of Islam, has been holding the job of information minister longer than anyone else in Syria's modern history.

He was also a member of the regional command of the ruling Baath Party.

Egypt urges U.S. to establish dialogue with PLO chairman

Israel mistaken

He said Israel was mistaken in believing that Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt was an obstacle to peace.

Asked whether there were any prospects at present of a ranking Egyptian official visiting Israel, Mr. Baz said: "You cannot rule out any contacts or visits here and there. This is always possible."

Egypt has repeatedly described its state of relations with Israel as one of "cold peace" since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was the last senior official to visit Israel, in June 1982.

Too early to comment

Mr. Baz said it was too early to speak of specific or concrete ac-

tion on talks between Mr. Arafat and Jordan on the Reagan peace initiative which calls for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan.

"But it was definitely clear that the Palestinian movement is open-minded on resuming contacts with Jordan... they believe such a dialogue is indispensable," he said.

Mr. Baz said Tuesday's meeting discussed possible steps to give a new push to Middle East peace efforts.

He said statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, rejecting dialogue with Mr. Arafat, were "negative."

"The door should always be left open for such negotiations and Israel must revise its position in view of the present strong trends among the Palestinian people in support of peace," Mr. Baz declared.

He was also a member of the regional command of the ruling Baath Party.

Pertini's criticism of U.S. sparks political row



"Which of the predecessors of our president would have been spared if he had said only a small part of the things asserted by Sandro Pertini?" he asked.

Mr. Piccoli said the Christian Democrats agreed that Italian troops should leave Lebanon as soon as possible but he criticised what he called Mr. Pertini's "personal judgments on our greatest ally," a reference to the United States.

Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini announced last week that Italy would withdraw some of its 2,200 troops who, with men from the U.S., France and Britain, form a peace force caught up in the worsening violence in Beirut.

Mr. Pertini's views were endorsed by Alfredo Reichlin, a member of the opposition Communist Party secretariat, who told *La Stampa* they were "not only realistic but highly patriotic."

And a prominent socialist, Senator Roberto Cassola, said in a statement that Mr. Pertini was authoritative and wise, "expressing opinions and anxieties widespread in the country."

But the leader of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, Giorgio Almirante, said anyone who called for a withdrawal was "on the side of Moscow."

Mr. Pertini, whose post is largely ceremonial, is highly popular with the public, most of whom believe the Italians should leave Lebanon, according to opinion polls.

The presidential palace Tuesday denied rumours that a televised year-end message in which Mr. Pertini has said he will restate his views to Italians had been altered, saying it would be broadcast on Dec. 31 as recorded nine days earlier.

The minister of defence has been waiting for the decision from President Assad... and President Assad has been waiting for a possible reciprocal gesture of goodwill from President Reagan if Syria releases Goodman," Mr. Mehdi said.

"But President Reagan has expressed no willingness to meet the Syrian humanitarian offer half

way," he added.

Mr. Mehdi said Syria had offered to release Capt. Goodman if American warplanes ceased "violations" of Syrian-held Lebanon."

His remarks, however, conflicted with Syrian official statements which have said that Capt. Goodman will not be freed until all U.S. forces have left Lebanon.

Mr. Mehdi said his delegation was leaving for the U.S. via Amman, where they would spend a few days.

Arab-Americans fail to free Syrian-held pilot

DAMASCUS (R) — An Arab-American delegation, trying to win the release of captured U.S. airman Robert Goodman, will return to the U.S. empty-handed, its leader said Tuesday.

M.T. Mehdi, president of the Federation of Arab-American Organisations, said their efforts had got nowhere because President Ronald Reagan had made "no gesture of goodwill" towards Syria.

Asked whether a scheduled visit by Jesse Jackson, black contender for the Democratic U.S. pre-

met Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas, Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and other officials during their stay.

The minister of defence has been waiting for the decision from President Assad... and President Assad has been waiting for a possible reciprocal gesture of goodwill from President Reagan if Syria releases Goodman."

His remarks, however, conflicted with Syrian official statements which have said that Capt. Goodman will not be freed until all U.S. forces have left Lebanon.

Mr. Mehdi said his delegation was leaving for the U.S. via Amman, where they would spend a few days.

OIC ministers to meet before summit

RABAT (R) — Foreign ministers from 41 Islamic countries will hold a preparatory meeting in Rabat before the Islamic summit opens in Casablanca on Jan. 16, Moroccan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The foreign ministers will discuss the summit's agenda from Jan. 12, he said. Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East and Palestinian questions as well as a possible return of Egypt to the Islamic and Arab folds are expected to be main issues at the conference, diplomatic sources said. King Hassan of Morocco has sent special envoys to dozens of Islamic countries to invite heads of state to attend the fourth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Morocco has severed diplomatic relations with some Islamic countries which have recognised the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara. Morocco and the Polisario have fought for eight years for control of the former Spanish territory.

Israeli policeman killed in Sidon clash

BEIRUT (R) — One Israeli policeman and possibly three Arab commandos were killed during the night in a clash in the South Lebanese city of Sidon, a military spokesman said.

He said an Israeli patrol spotted a commando squad preparing to plant a roadside bomb and the clash occurred in the shooting that followed.

One policeman was wounded, he added. He said he did not know if any of the commandos had survived.

The clash occurred in one of the eastern neighbourhoods of Sidon, which has been the site of the almost daily attacks on Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon.

The policeman's death brought to 561 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since the June 1982 invasion, according to official figures.

A total of 3,192 Israelis have been wounded, the figures indicate.

60 killed, 200 injured in 3 days of clashes

Lebanese army, militias fortify positions as fragile truce holds

districts of east Beirut.

Millionaire Lebanese businessman Rafiq Al Hariri, chief mediator in the Saudi-backed Sept. 25 ceasefire which ended last summer's "mountain war," arrived from Riyadh with a plan to consolidate a wider ceasefire agreed on Dec. 16.

State-run Beirut Radio said he was carrying the final draft of a scheme to create buffer zones between the Lebanese army and various militias.

Comprehensive plan

Informed sources said the plan called for the withdrawal of right-wing militias from some mountain positions, the deployment of the army on the coast road and the confirmation of Bei-

rut airport as a neutral zone.

Another important provision, they said, was a promise to be extricated from all factions not to shell residential areas should hostilities resume.

President Anis Gemayel discussed the plan Monday night by telephone with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Reporters who toured the heavily-armed Shatila district Tuesdays saw many badly damaged blocks of flats, scores of burnt-out cars and debris littering the streets.

Both the army and the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" (hope) militia were reinforcing their positions, filling sandbags and bringing in more men.

British soldier hurt, page 2

Arens weighs imposing deportation as punishment for Palestinian protesters

DEHEISHEH REFUGEE CAMP

Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens Tuesday visited the West Bank trouble spots and said he was considering deporting Palestinians who endanger Israeli "security".

"We are looking at the possibility of deportation as a possible means of punishment in addition to those that exist," Mr. Arens said after being briefed by army officers at the entrance to this refugee camp south of Bethlehem.

Mr. Arens held talks with military officials on Arab stonings of Israeli vehicles in the occupied territory and said he was seeking to solve the problem.

Asked whether the government would demolish Arab houses used as collective punishment against stone-throwing protesters, Mr. Arens replied: "It is certainly one approach we are looking at, to make sure there is space between the road and areas where people

move and live."

Jewish settlers have demanded that the government use deportation of stone-throwing protesters as a deterrent. But Mr. Arens said the deportation measure, if used, "would not necessarily apply to stone-throwers."

Security forces have imposed curfews and used mass arrests to deal with protesters, but in only a few cases have Palestinian activists been deported. Israelis acknowledge that deportation used on a larger scale would draw international condemnation.

A number of Arab citizens and religious sites have been carried out by Jewish settlers armed with Submachine guns and other weapons issued by the army.

In another report, Petra said that a ban on travel to Jordan imposed over a month ago on residents of the occupied West Bank district of Qalqilia was lifted Tuesday morning.

Pope visits assailant in prison

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul

paying a Christmas visit to a Rome jail, Tuesday met Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who shot and wounded him in 1981.

The pontiff and the Turk were left alone as they spoke for 20 minutes in Agca's isolation cell in Rebibbia Prison, a Vatican spokesman told reporters.

The cell door was left open and prison guards and officials and members of the papal retinue could see but not hear the

WSC to carry out several rural projects in 1984

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Supply Corporation (WSC) will carry out several water projects in the coming year 1984, especially in the rural regions of the country, according to WSC Director Yassin Al Kayed.

He said that 1984 will witness the completion of the Aqaba sewerage project and the start of the operation of the Jerash sewerage station.

"Early in the coming year we are expecting specialists in Amman to help us operate the station but at present the WSC is busy linking the main sewerage network with homes in Jerash," Mr. Kayed said. "Two foreign companies will be awarded a tender to start implementing the Irbid sewerage project early in 1984."

Mr. Kayed was speaking here following a visit he made to the United States where he inspected water and sewerage projects and discussed the implementation of projects in Jordan with the U.S. officials.

Chinese medical team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese Medical team left Amman Tuesday concluding a seven-day visit to Jordan during which they met Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas and held talks with ministry's senior officials on ways for boosting co-operation between Jordan and the People's Republic of China.

Public Security signs agreement for building more housing units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Directorate Tuesday signed an agreement on civil works for the second phase of the Public Security officer's housing estate at Tabarbour.

The first phase provides for building 48 flats which are currently under construction. Public Sec-

urity Assistant Director Mohammad Ali Al Amin said.

The new phase includes building 34 flats to be occupied by 214 Public Security officers and their families. Officers with an active service of over 12 years will benefit from the project.

Passport Department gets 15 new printing machines

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Passport Department has started applying a computerised printing system for printing newly-issued passports in both Arabic and English.

Passport Department Director Mohammad Al Qudah said the department is now operating 15 modern machines for printing passports, and added that this ad-

vanced service would be expanded to include passport departments all over the country as well as Jordanian embassies abroad.

With the new system, forgery has become almost impossible, Mr. Qudah said, and the new equipment, costing JD 120,000 per apparatus, are capable of producing 240 passports daily.

Drug addiction, a contemporary problem in Jordan

By Rabab Mango and Elia Nasrallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Drug addiction is a world-wide problem, but in Jordan the situation has not assumed alarming proportions as the Public Security Department is keeping things under its control. But according to the department's head of the anti-narcotics unit, Hani Al Qudah, there are more than 1,000 addicts in Jordan at the moment and the problem is causing concern to the authorities because every year more and more Jordanians are taking up the habit.

He said that Jordan occupies a central position in the Middle East and as a result, attracted smugglers and drug traffickers. Thus the problem of drugs which the country was free from in the past, could well affect our society in view of its rapid development, ease of travel and the large flow of trade and money.

Drug addicts do not live a long life, and this is an established fact, he said. In order to get drugs, the addicts usually resort to robbery, embezzlement, fraud, murder and dozens of other different ways to secure a steady income to finance their habit, according to Lt.-Col. Qudah.

The addict, he said, can easily be transformed into a person who does not own anything and one who can easily abandon his family, give up his job, principles and eventually create further problems for society. Drug addicts are never satisfied and the effect of the drugs can be to rob a person of his identity, will-power and char-

acter, he said.

General situation

said, to reveal that a number of Jordanian women have also been found to be drug addicts.

A study on the drug situation in Jordan was carried out towards the end of the 1970s. It revealed that a sample of 111 to 120 cafes in Amman were frequented by around 50 to 60 addicts, according to the owners of these places who were interviewed in the course of the study.

Between 1973 and 1983 the Public Security Department seized various amounts of drugs including hashish, opium and cocaine.

Determined to eradicate drug phenomena from spreading, he said. But he continued, with the recent developments in Jordan, particularly after the 1960s, the drug trafficking business which had previously been confined to smugglers and was limited among ordinary people, began to spread among people in all walks of life.

Jordan, being open to trade due to its central geographical position in the region, witnessed drug smuggling from Turkey, Lebanon and Syria bound for Egypt — the major drug consumer country in the region.

However, some of the drugs that are brought into Jordan stay here, and there are cafes and bars in Amman frequented by addicts of all ages, he pointed out.

Drug addiction has spread among both traders and youths, he said, especially students who have been educated or travelled to foreign nations and have acquired their habits.

It is not a secret, Lt.-Col. Qudah

noted, to reveal that a number of Jordanian women have also been found to be drug addicts.

Asked about the drug situation in Jordan and the effects of drug addicts on society we put some questions to Lt.-Col. Qudah.

He began by saying that in the 1920s and '30s Jordan was completely free of drugs. Isolated cases appeared from time to time, but they all proved to be among non-Jordanian nationals. In the past, social traditions and customs probably constituted a deterrent and the society's patterns of behaviour prevented the addiction phenomena from spreading, he said. But he continued, with the recent developments in Jordan, particularly after the 1960s, the drug trafficking business which had previously been confined to smugglers and was limited among ordinary people, began to spread among people in all walks of life.

Asked about cases in which drug addicts tried to give up the habit, Lt.-Col. Qudah said that we have tried to help, but that the addict faces very serious illness and possible death if denied doses of, in particular, heroin. Twelve hours after abstaining from taking the drug an addict will display horrible mental and physical symptoms in which they are beyond control.

Asked about cases in which drug addicts tried to give up the habit, Lt.-Col. Qudah said that we have tried to help, but that the addict faces very serious illness and possible death if denied doses of, in particular, heroin. Twelve hours after abstaining from taking the drug an addict will display horrible mental and physical symptoms in which they are beyond control.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:

Amman: 41%; Salt and suburbs: 31%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 10%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows:</

SPORTS

Liverpool enjoys a double escape

LONDON (R) — Lowly Leicester City made nonsense of the widely-held belief that the only thing you take away from Anfield is the match programme when they held English first division leaders Liverpool to a 2-2 draw Tuesday.

Leicester looked poised to stage the upset of the season when they led 2-0 with goals from Alan Smith and Ian Banks, but, with time running out, Ian Rush and Sammy Lee salvaged a precious point by levelling the scores.

Liverpool, who lost both home and away to Leicester in the 1981-82 season — they went on to win the championship and City plumped into the second division — enjoyed a double escape.

Manchester United, the only possible threat to their hopes of lifting the title for the seventh time in nine seasons, failed to close the gap at the top when they shared the points with Notts County in a six-goal thriller at Old Trafford.

With third-placed Luton losing 1-0 at home to West Ham, the top

of the table remained virtually unchanged with Liverpool on 41 points, followed by Manchester United (38), Southampton (37), West Ham (36) and Luton (35).

Leicester, who have lost only two of their last 13 games, stunned the famous Kop terrace choir into silence in the seventh minute when Smith ended a goalmouth Melee with a crisp shot past Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

That is usually the cue for Liverpool to take destructive revenge, but Leicester — either through bravery or naivete — inflicted further embarrassment when Banks added a second midway through the second half.

Like a lion awaking with a hangover, Liverpool were not in

the best of humour and they promptly tore off in search of blood.

Lee pulled one back in the 73rd minute and Rush made it 2-2 seven minutes from time with his 21st goal of the season.

That set the scene for an astonishing finish in which Leicester goalkeeper Mark Wallington performed above and beyond the call of duty.

He pulled off one amazing save from Liverpool captain Graeme Souness then topped that effort when he brilliantly saved a last minute penalty from the same player.

Charlie Nicholas, who scored twice in Arsenal's 4-2 win at Tottenham on Monday, crowned his return to form when he scored his first goal at Highbury since 1975, 3000 (\$1.12m) transfer from Glasgow Celtic in the summer.

Nicholas ended 1.157 barren minutes in the 13th minute of his 13th home game when he netted a penalty to give Arsenal a 1-1 draw against Birmingham.

Like a lion awaking with a hangover, Liverpool were not in

Hearns wants second try against Sugar Ray Leonard

NEW YORK (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight champion Thomas Hearns said Tuesday he has recovered from a right-hand injury and is anxious for another fight against Sugar Ray Leonard, the only man ever to beat him.

Hearns, attending a press conference to promote his first title defence against Luigi Minchillo of Italy, had Leonard uppermost in his mind.

"I want Leonard," he said of the former undisputed welterweight champion who recently announced his return to the ring. "That fight would be worth \$20 million each."

Hearns, attending a press conference to promote his first title defence against Luigi Minchillo of Italy, had Leonard uppermost in his mind.

"I want to fight Leonard because I came so close," Hearns said, referring to their 1981 bout for the welterweight title. "I never should have lost that fight." Leonard retained his crown when the referee halted the contest in the 14th round.

Hearns will have to get past 28-year-old Minchillo, the former European junior middleweight champion, who boasts a record of 42-2.

The venue of the January 27 bout has not been announced but promoters said a deal is close to stage the fight in Las Vegas.

Hearns will also have to prove he is ready to use his once-vaunted right hand. In capturing the title a year ago with a points decision over Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, Hearns fought the final rounds with two dislocated bones in his hand.

Asked if he has improved as a fighter since then, Hearns replied: "I am a much smarter thinker, a much wiser man."

Earlier this month, Leonard announced an end to a 13-month retirement forced by surgery to correct a partly detached retina in his left eye.

France hails Platini as new national hero

PARIS (R) — Michel Platini was acclaimed a national hero in France Tuesday after being voted European Footballer of the Year. Platini, 28, who joined Juventus last year, won the coveted Golden Ball award organised by France Football magazine in a landslide victory to become the first Frenchman to win the trophy since the legendary Raymond Kopa of Real Madrid in 1958.

The poll gave Platini 110, well ahead of second-placed Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool and Scotland with 26.

"I really didn't think I had a chance of winning. It's an emotion totally different from winning a match," he said.

"In my opinion, he's great as that unforgettable Uruguayan master of my own playing era," Juan Schiaffino.

Zico wins battle for 15 per cent of transfer fee

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian soccer star Zico has won his battle for 15 per cent of the \$4m Italian club Udinese paid Flamengo for his transfer.

Zico's lawyers argued

Zico was not entitled to the payment, the usual player's percentage in Brazil, as the rules did not apply to international transfers. They also said Zico had stated he was not interested in the

money.

Zico denied making that statement and a Rio Sports Federation tribunal has decided he should receive the \$600,000.

Before leaving for Italy, Zico said he wanted to end his playing career in Rio and added: "When I come back I'm prepared to play for Flamengo for nothing — I just want to finish my career in a red and black shirt."

Skipper Clive Lloyd led his

McNamee, Edmondson give Australia lead over Sweden

MELBOURNE (R) — Paul McNamee, in what he called "the best match I ever played" and Mark Edmondson overpowered the Swedish pair of Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson to give Australia a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup final with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the doubles at Kooyong on Tuesday.

The triumph put Australia within one victory of winning the Davis Cup for the first time since 1977 and they will be favoured to do so in the first of the reverse singles on Wednesday when Pat Cash faces Joakim Nyström.

John Fitzgerald, who beat Nyström Monday, and Mats Wilander, Cash's conqueror on the first day, will meet in the final match of the tie.

Swedish captain Hans Olsson admitted his confidence was slipping away, but believed Sweden still had a good chance.

"Every match we lose is not good for the confidence but there are still two matches more and we are going to fight."

"We hope to win this," he said. "We have not yet lost it."

Australian captain Neale Fraser would not be drawn on which of the two final singles he thought might be easier to win.

"The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounded around the court burying winning smashes and volleys with a

WSC to carry out several rural projects in 1984

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Supply Corporation (WSC) will carry out several water projects in the coming year, 1984, especially in the rural regions of the country, according to WSC Director Yassin Al Kayed.

He said that 1984 will witness the completion of the Aqaba sewerage project and the start of the operation of the Jerash sewerage station.

"Early in the coming year we are expecting specialists in Amman to help us operate the station but at present the WSC is busy linking the main sewerage network with homes in Jerash," Mr. Kayed said. "Two foreign companies will be awarded a tender to start implementing the Irbid sewerage project early in 1984."

Mr. Kayed was speaking here following a visit he made to the United States where he inspected water and sewerage projects and discussed the implementation of projects in Jordan with the U.S. officials.

Chinese medical team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese Medical team left Amman Tuesday concluding a seven-day visit to Jordan during which they met Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas and held talks with ministry's senior officials on ways for boosting co-operation between Jordan and the People's Republic of China.

Public Security signs agreement for building more housing units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Directorate Tuesday signed an agreement on civil works for the second phase of the Public Security officer's house estate at Tahrour.

The first phase provides for building 48 flats which are currently under construction. Public Sec-

Passport Department gets 15 new printing machines

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Passport Department has started applying a computerised printing system for printing newly-issued passports in both Arabic and English.

Passport Department Director Mohammad Al Qudah said the department is now operating 15 modern machines for printing passports and added that this ad-

minister visited the states of Virginia, Maryland and California in the course of a programme of cooperation between the U.S. and Jordan in implementation of a 1982 bilateral agreement. His talks with U.S. officials and specialists covered the prospect of dispatching Jordanian engineers and technicians to the U.S. for further training on purification of drinking water, wastewater treatment and ways of dealing with pollution of water sources.

At present the WSC is preparing the necessary documents for implementing the sewerage project for Zarqa and Ruseifa, he said.

Also the WSC is preparing a study in co-operation with the World Bank and the National Planning Council on carrying out water and sewerage projects in Karak, Madaba, Tafileh, Ma'an, Mafrag, Ramtha, Ajloun, Anjara, 'Ain Jana and Kufrunjab. Mr. Kayed added.

and exchange of expertise in the medical field.

Members of the delegation lectured Jordanian doctors on acupuncture and operations for transplanting amputated limbs.

They also visited a number of touristic and historical places in Jordan.

Customs Directorate announces new exemptions for Jordanians, foreigners

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Directorate, in compliance with the new Customs Law, has issued new directives exempting from duty the personal luggage and furniture for Jordanians living abroad and for foreigners intending to live in Jordan.

Customs Director-General Adel Qudah said those who would benefit from exemption under the new provision are those who have concluded their employment contracts abroad and are returning to Jordan with their families for permanent residence.

Families of Jordanians who will continue working abroad and desire to have their families to stay permanently in Jordan have to

submit documents that prove such an intention, according to the provisions of the new directives.

Documents supporting transfer of applicant's children to Jordanian schools, contracts for a rented house, documents signifying ownership of a vacant house or a signed contract for taking up a job in Jordan, would be satisfactory for exemption purposes. All documents should be officially ratified.

To benefit from the new regulation, the family should not, as a whole or through one of its members, have profited from a similar exemption in the past.

The duration for the luggage and house furniture to be brought into the country should not exceed the new measures.



The rock band, Suede, (from left to right) Nasser Sharaf, Ali Eid and Fares Sharaf, during a practice session (file photo).

Rock group to give charity concert

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A concert for the benefit of the Social Security Fund will be held Thursday by the Jordanian rock group, Suede, the proceeds of which will go to Jordanian needy families.

The Social Security Fund is a voluntary organisation founded in the beginning of 1983 to help destitute families, either through rehabilitation of individuals or through direct financial aid.

The Suede concert is the first fund-raising event for the organisation.

Mrs. Zein Eshbelat, the secretary-general of the Social Security Fund, explained to the Jordan Times the objectives of the organisation. She said that the organisation aims to offer opportunities to poor families for building a better future through the rehabilitation of individuals who are able to engage in different kinds of work.

"The organisation will sponsor the training of needy individuals in a certain craft, thus enabling them to have a new start in life that might better their living standards and save them from poverty," she said.

In cases where families are destitute, who need urgent help or with no individuals that are able to work, the Social Security Fund is ready to provide an outright financial aid, Mrs. Eshbelat added.

The Social Security Fund will sponsor "an adoption programme" by which affluent individuals can "adopt" needy families and help them through the organisation.

"Through the adoption programme affluent individuals can undertake themselves to help the needy families or individuals. An affluent person can give JD 3,000 annually to a destitute family through the organisation. The amount will be given to the adopted family on a monthly basis," Mrs. Eshbelat said.

The Social Security Fund, she pointed out, is also ready to give a considerable amount at one time to an individual or a family who needs to start a small business to provide it with a stable source of income.

Mrs. Eshbelat expressed hope that the concert will be able to raise JD 3,000, with which the organisation will launch this programme to help poor Jordanians.

Equally enthusiastic, for achieving the objectives of the party, are the three young members of the band.

"Suede has always taken part in charity fund raising concerts that turned out a success," Nasser Sharaf, a 17-year-old student who plays the guitar, said. He is very optimistic because the Suede's last concert drew an audience of three thousand.

For Nasser and the rest of the musicians, the coming concert will be "very special" because it will be their first solo act."

Nasser, who composes the music and writes the lyrics for the songs, expressed surprise at the response by youth in Amman to the Suede's music.

The concert will take place on Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Palace of Culture at the Hussein Sports City. Tickets will be available at the door.

Drug addiction, a contemporary problem in Jordan

By Rabab Mango and
Ella Nasrallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Drug addiction is a world-wide problem, but in Jordan the situation has not assumed alarming proportions as the Public Security Department is keeping things under its control. But according to the department's head of the anti-narcotics unit, Hani Al Qudah, there are more than 1,000 addicts in Jordan at the moment and the problem is causing concern to the authorities because every year more and more Jordanians are taking up the habit.

He said that Jordan occupies a central position in the Middle East and, as a result, attracted smugglers and drug traffickers. Thus the problem of drugs which the country was free from in the past, could well affect our society in view of its rapid development, ease of travel and the large flow of trade and money.

Drug addicts do not live a long life, and this is an established fact, he said. In order to get drugs, the addicts usually resort to robbery, embezzlement, fraud, murder and dozens of other different ways to secure a steady income to finance their habit, according to Lt.-Col. Qudah.

The addict, he said, can easily be transformed into a person who does not earn anything and one who can earn anything his family, give up his job, principles and eventually create further problems for society. Drug addicts are never satisfied and the effect of the drugs can be to rob a person of his identity, will-power and char-

acter, he said.

General situation

To find out about the drug situation in Jordan and the effects of drug addicts on society we put some questions to Lt.-Col. Qudah.

He began by saying that in the 1970s and 80s Jordan was completely free of drugs. Isolated cases appeared from time to time, but they all proved to be among non-Jordanian nationals. In the past, social traditions and customs probably constituted a deterrent and the society's patterns of behaviour prevented the addiction phenomena from spreading, he said. But he continued, with the recent developments in Jordan, particularly after the 1960s, the drug trafficking business which had previously been confined to smugglers and was limited among ordinary people, began to spread among people in all walks of life.

Jordan, being open to trade due to its central geographical position in the region, witnessed drug smuggling from Turkey, Lebanon and Syria for Egypt — the major drug consumer country in the region.

However, some of the drugs that are brought into Jordan stay here, and there are cafes and bars in Amman frequented by addicts of all ages, he pointed out.

Drug addiction has spread among both traders and youths, he said, especially students who have been educated or travelled to foreign nations and have acquired their habits.

It is not a secret, Lt.-Col. Qudah

asked about cases in which drug addicts tried to give up the habit. Lt.-Col. Qudah said that people have tried to help, but the addict faces very serious illness and possible death if denied doses of, in particular, heroin. Twelve hours after abstaining from taking the drug an addict will display horrible mental and physical symptoms in which they are beyond control.

An addict who goes through this experience can expect shake uncontrollably, to suffer severe sweating, impaired vision and will be subject to contractions of the organs accompanied by acute diarrhoea, stomach-ache, pain in var-

ious parts of the body and possibly death.

Why take up the habit?

Lt.-Col. Qudah said that people take up the drugs habit for different reasons. These include:

- a desire to belong to a new set of people;
- the attraction of a dangerous adventure;
- the need to overcome a mental or nervous disorder;
- to help to get rid of anxiety, mental or physical stress or fear.

However, according to a statistical survey conducted in 1979, drug addiction in Jordan was found to be mainly due to social, health and economic difficulties and problems.

Those interviewed were addicts, people involved in combating the habit or those campaigning for legislation to counter addiction.

The survey revealed that in 1979 there were 1,079 addicts distributed as follows:

Amman: 40%; Salt and suburbs: 5%; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 35%; Aqaba: 5%; Karak: 5%; Madaba: 1%.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows: Six percent were under 20, 32 percent between 21 and 30, 42 percent between 31 and 40 and 24 percent above 41.

Of these, 70 percent were found to be married, 25 percent were single and only five percent were widowed or divorced.

The survey also indicated that 31 percent of the addicts were illiterate, 22 percent had elementary education, 19 percent

Ministry to re-examine building and land tax law

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh has set up a special committee to re-examine the buildings and lands tax law, with a view to introduce an amendment aimed at reducing the taxes on buildings and lands.

The committee has been entrusted with studying other laws pertaining to the buildings and lands law so that a unified tax law on buildings can be enacted, according to a Finance Ministry spokesman.

He said that the committee held its first meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. Masa'deh and will complete its work by Wednesday.

The subject of taxes on buildings and lands was raised at Monday's session of the National Consultative Council (NUC) when Prime Minister Mudar Badran reiterated a previous government statement that there will be no increases in taxes whatsoever.

The Finance Ministry's committee, Mr. Badran said, will work on unified basis for assessment of buildings on which tax is to be imposed. "It is true that we have 25 committees who are more or less tax assessors and who suggest certain amounts to be imposed as tax on buildings, but different teams give different assessments."

"In order to arrive at an equitable solution and to be fair we have set up this committee to lay down unified basis for assessing taxes," the prime minister added.

The new amendment is not for

adding taxes on buildings but to reach an equitable and unified code for assessment, he stressed.

At present the tax imposed on buildings is 1% per cent of the rent or the would be rent, but in effect the government is collecting only seven per cent and therefore the new amendment will definitely include provisions for reducing the tax below 1% per cent, the prime minister said.

Mr. Badran was commenting on a statement by NUC member Khalil Al Salem in which he supported the government's view in drawing new principles and codes for assessing taxes on buildings "with a view to achieving justice."

The Finance Ministry's committee, Dr. Salem said, had earlier suggested to the government not to impose any taxes but to achieve a balance in taxes and arrive at an equitable formula. Dr. Salem said

Obeidat opens new first aid centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Ahmad Obeidat Tuesday

made a tour of the Civil Defence Department centres and also opened an emergency and first aid centre in the town of Al Jiza.

Mr. Obeidat was briefed by the director of first aid and emergency at the department on the services which the centre provides to the public and got acquainted with its

various sections.

The minister later opened Al Jiza Camp which includes dormitories and workshops for civil defence and workshops and is divided into the emergency and first aid centre, all over the country, all modern machinery used in it.

At the end of the tour, Mr. Obeidat met with the Director of Civil Defence Department, Maj.-Gen. Khaled Al Farwani,

brides as well as other high-ranking officers of the department.

Mr. Obeidat expressed his admiration of the high level which the department and its various emergency centres, all over the country, has reached and of the modern machinery used in it.

The new centre services the public and got acquainted with its

Jordan-EEC co-operation makes further strides, publication says

AMMAN (J.T.) — While steady progress has been made over the last few years in the implementation of the co-operation development projects between Jordan and the European Economic Community (EEC), last month saw further strides being taken with new projects being approved, according to the European Communities Newsletter, a monthly publication whose first editions appeared in Amman this month. The newsletter outlined these projects as follows:

Training scholarships:

— 600,000 ECU (about JD 200,000) has been approved to provide scholarships for Jordanian senior officials to attend special courses of training and development in Europe.

Two special loans were negotiated at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg in favour of the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Jordan Co-operative Organisation. Each loan amounts to 3 million ECU. The funds come from the Bank's own resources and the Commission's budget and are given under special terms and conditions. The money will be loaned to Jordanian farmers for land development and farm improvements.

In introducing the newsletter, the EEC's delegate in Jordan, Mr. E.C. Sullivan, said the aim of the publication is to inform on the more general aspects of the European Community and, in particular, on how the Community's policies affecting relations with countries outside Europe are developing.

The Arab World as a whole has special relations with Europe through the Euro-Arab Dialogue, Euro-Gulf Co-operation and a series of co-operation treaties with the Arab countries of the

Hamarneh to head WTO committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday appointed the nomination of Director-General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh as head of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) Technical Committee for Programming and Co-ordination for the period 1984-1985.

The nomination followed the election, by a unanimous vote, of Jordan as head of the Madrid-based committee, which is considered one of the most important in the field of tourism, responsible for outlining and following up implementation of WTO programmes.

Nabulsi: Less inflation during eighties

(Continued from page 51)

of Arab thinking and feeling. Since the formation of the League of Arab States in 1945, its Charter stipulated that the League would undertake to bring about economic co-operation and organise its members to act together in the region and to combat instability in the region. The unavoidable outcome of being at the eye of the storm brought varying elements of instability to the region and called for unwarranted form of spending on defence purposes.

Inter-Arab regional economic co-operation, despite its slow and hesitant tone, is not without some achievements. Assessing the overall performance of Arab co-operation, I am inclined to say that it represents the mainstream

of the council have led to many inter-Arab agreements, the most important of which were the Arab Common Market Agreement, the Transit-Trade Agreement, the Arab Capital Investment and Transfer Agreement, Arab Investment Guarantee Agreement and an agreement on freezing the movement of Arab workforce within the council's member countries, along with several major agreements to establish joint financial institutions.

VACANCIES

The new AL-RAZI GENERAL HOSPITAL at Zsrqa, Yajooz Street, near King Talal Housing Estate, has the following vacancies:

- 1- Staff nurse
- 2- Practical nurse
- 3- Secretary

On part or full-time basis. Interviews in

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-oriented daily newspaper in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1925

Responsible Editor:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Board of Directors:
JUMA'A HAMMAD
RAJA ELISSA

Editor:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

MOHAMMAD AMAD
MAHMUD AL KAYED

Senior Editors:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Advertising Manager:
FERNANDO FRANCIS

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 666320, 666245; Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO.

Telex: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Key is self-determination

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last week apparently has cost him some political standing, especially with his erstwhile friends in the Palestinian camp. How he plans to offset this loss, nobody is sure. But what are the possibilities there, and how does the PLO leader intend to play his few cards from now on?

First, let us assume that Arafat's decision, in going to Egypt to open a new dialogue with President Mubarak and his government, is irretrievable. This is a safe assumption since to go back on his bold step now surely means the collapse of his "independent" decision-making machine and consequently the bankruptcy of his policies for the post-Tripoli era — let alone the likely loss of face and stature in the Palestinian resistance movement that might ensue if he were to dismiss the Egyptian visit as just a passing whim.

If our assumption is correct, then reports received here from Sana'a yesterday that the PLO chairman is in the process of charting brand new policies for his organisations also have to be true. What these policies will be, we will have to wait and see. But what is evident is that Arafat will again choose a middle course between the two extremes in the Middle East.

The PLO leader will definitely not jump on the Reagan plan peace wagon, for such a move is certain to further undermine his credibility among the Palestinians. He will be willing, however, to build a bridge to the U.S. proposals on the Middle East in some form or another — a compromise that is safe enough to pursue, we think, if there is evidence the United States decides to accept it as well.

It seems that something like the envisaged Egyptian-French initiative to solve the Palestinian problem is the most sound basis upon which Arafat might want to act. Short of that, U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 or 338, amended to include the right of Palestinians to self-determination, may also be acceptable to the majority of Palestinians.

In any case, for Arafat to recoup the loss that he incurred in breaking ranks with fellow Palestinians over the Cairo visit, he most probably needs political gains somewhere else. This could be most easily and promptly done if, and only if, Egypt, the U.S. and the rest of the moderates moved swiftly to his side, and not the other way round. The key to any Middle East settlement remains that, and will always be, the granting to the Palestinians of the right to self-determination.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'if: Removing the Israeli barrier

JORDAN HAS always adopted a policy of strengthening its ties with Egypt and has been advocating this policy in the Arab World. This policy stems from its conviction that any positive step towards Egypt can lead to the removal, by degrees, of the barrier that Israel had created between the Arab states and Egypt and the ending of that country's isolation. Any constructive step towards Egypt can lead to the re-building of bridges of brotherly ties and cooperation in the best interests of the Arab nation.

In his address to the National Consultative Council Monday Prime Minister Mudar Badran stressed this fact again and stressed the importance of not leaving any Arab state to be under Israel's mercy or confronting the Zionist state all on its own. It is true that the Arab nation must not allow one state to conclude a separate peace treaty with Israel as Egypt did but it is not true that any constructive move towards Egypt should be interpreted as a step representing capitulation to the enemy. When Sadat visited Israel he did that on his own initiative and without consulting with his own people. Now Sadat is gone and so are his policies, and what is left now is the Egyptian people whom we know very well and whom we should deal directly and objectively.

Al Dustour: Considering Arab interests

JORDAN'S TIES with Egypt are based on the concept of the need to mobilise all Arab resources and potentials for serving the higher Arab interests. Jordan, as Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday, believes that Egypt should not be left as a prey to the Zionists and should not be left out in the dark. Egypt should feel that its sister Arab states are supporting it and had not abandoned it, despite the Camp David agreement which temporarily caused the ostracism of Egypt and the Egyptian people from the rest of the Arab World.

The higher Arab interests should always be placed above all other considerations, and above individual interests. This fact was emphasised by the prime minister in his address to the National Consultative Council Monday. He said that Egypt should not be left alone to face the Zionists pressures and hegemony, the absence of Egypt from the Arab arena had no doubt weakened the Arabs and caused great damage to their credibility and their ability to confront the dangers and challenges.

In the light of this we should view Arafat's visit to Cairo last Thursday as a constructive step that could lead to a better understanding of the Egyptian position and a further strengthening of the Arab ranks.

Sawt Al Shaab: Bolstering the Arab ranks

THE SIGNING of the Camp David agreements by the Israeli and Egyptian governments can by no means change the fact that Egypt is an Arab country, and its people are Arabs. Egypt manifested this fact on several occasions specially during Israel's invasion of Lebanon and in its support for the Palestinians and their rights regionally and internationally. It is, therefore, natural for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to go to Cairo to pay tribute to its new leaders' endeavours and their drive to regain the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland.

Jordan for its part, has always believed that negative dealings with Egypt can only lead to its further isolation and would result in driving it more and more towards Israel. Jordan believes that Egypt, as an Arab state, should be strengthened, for its strength can be of support to the Arab Nation who can take pride in Jordan also believes that being a confrontation state and in view of its demographic and geographic situation, should try to bolster Arab ranks in confrontation with the Israeli enemy. Everything possible should be done to achieve this and everything should be done to bolster Arab solidarity.

MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

Reagan sees East-West contest everywhere

PRESIDENT RONALD Reagan's tendency to perceive the whole world in terms of East and West, with various nation's internal conflicts looming as potential threats to an eventual larger contest of wills or military might between the United States and the Soviet Union is slowly but surely entrenched in the U.S. firmly in the middle of Lebanon's maddening civil war. Unfortunately this comes as no surprise to anyone who has observed the Reagan administration's constantly changing foreign policy, particularly concerning the Middle East.

In 1982 the administration strongly condemned Israel's invasion of Lebanon and eight months later, insisted any sort of stability in Lebanon could not be accomplished without withdrawal of all foreign forces. Yet in a sharp reversal of that argument, this days the administration says the Marines may stay as long as 16 months from now, under a Congressional directive in October authorising the extension.

In a report prepared by Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger) presented earlier this month to Congress.

Mr. Reagan asserted that "the international credibility of the United States and its partners" was at stake in Lebanon. But one Western observer says force that ends up killing more Arabs, even in self-defence, will not enhance America's influence in the Middle East politics. Even in the U.S. it would eventually be viewed as just another occupying force helping Israel do its "dirty work" — a stigma darkening its image the United States can no longer overlook, in a region where shedding a Christian Maronite regime from "Muslim and Druze" militia has become so dangerous that Multinational Forces (MNF) are not immune from fire, becoming in effect one more warring faction.

At a Washington news conference two weeks ago, President Reagan said the U.S. would not withdraw its forces from Beirut until the government of Lebanon took control of its territory or there was "such a collapse of order" that no peaceful resolution of the Lebanese conflict was possible.

U.S. National Security Affairs Adviser Robert McFarlane

said two days later that U.S. and other multinational troops could be withdrawn within six months, if the Lebanese army could demonstrate that it could establish a stable security in the area to be evacuated by peacekeepers.

In recent interview with U.S. News and World Report magazine, Mr. Reagan said the MNF could be withdrawn in 1984, provided Syria would also pull its troops out of the country. "I don't say that the Multinational Force has to stay until all those foreign forces are out. I think that even if they gave an assurance that they're going to go and start the process, maybe we could then leave," he marked. Last week White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes told reporters the Marines might be withdrawn if the talks between feuding Lebanese factions failed.

But American officials are dreaming if they think the Multinational Force can achieve a solution in a few short months, a question which has eluded the Lebanese after nearly a decade of battle. Following a meeting two weeks ago in London with British Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel noted that a "premature withdrawal" of the British, American, French and Italian forces "through expediency or under the threat of international terrorism would have immense consequences throughout the Middle East." Yet last Friday, Italian President Sandro Pertini told reporters in Rome the Italian MNF contingent should be withdrawn, because it had "no clear significance" in Lebanon after the departure of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his troops.

In America, two Democrats who supported the War Powers Resolution extending the mandate of U.S. troops in Lebanon wrote a letter to the president stressing that "getting the Marines out" of Lebanon was an option that "needs to be considered." U.S. Representatives Lee Hamilton of Indiana and Les Aspin of Wisconsin said the U.S. will "err" if it continues to act "as though hanging on is the only way to protect our interests."

They emphasised President Reagan had "overstated" the American stake in Lebanon by

attributing to the Soviet Union problems arising from disputes within Lebanon. (Last month Mr. Reagan said the USSR, in both Lebanon and Grenada, was acting through "a network of surrogates and terrorists.")

The representatives also accused Mr. Reagan of not being strong enough in pressuring Mr. Gemayel to accept the necessity of "painful compromise" with his political adversaries.

In Lebanon, the American shelling of Syrian positions is only making matters worse, escalating what is already in the most optimistic sense a very precarious situation by adding to the long list of American and foreign casualties and inviting endless comparisons to Vietnam, by an American public weary of fighting for other people's causes that they don't understand.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former national security adviser in President Jimmy Carter's administration, cautioned recently that the U.S. is in danger of switching from the role of mediator to protagonist in Lebanon. He said this will drive the Arabs toward the Syrians, thus increasing political clout in the

region for the Soviets.

Mr. Reagan seems to have temporarily put aside the Middle East peace initiative efforts in favour of focusing on a skirmisher in Lebanon and hopefully, not as a recipe for instant peace, but as a way to distract from his difficulties.

The representatives also accused Mr. Reagan of not being strong enough in pressuring Mr. Gemayel to accept the necessity of "painful compromise" with his political adversaries.

In Lebanon, the American shelling of Syrian positions is only making matters worse, escalating what is already in the most optimistic sense a very precarious situation by adding to the long list of American and foreign casualties and inviting endless comparisons to Vietnam, by an American public weary of fighting for other people's causes that they don't understand.

As the 1984 elections draw near, Ronald Reagan cannot afford to shelve his Middle East peace initiative, or to link his destiny to Lebanon. The ramifications are too far-reaching, not only for the United States, but for the world. Mr. Reagan persists on dividing into East and West.

...as there is another side to war.

When a strong man stands his ground,

though they come from the ends of the Earth.

— Rudolf Kipling

Continued Gulf war, Iran's hegemonic trend threaten region's stability and world peace

Ayatollah Khomeini's holy war has never been directed solely against Iraq. In the wake of the terrorist bombings in Kuwait, Ringer Matthews considers the designs of the Iranian mullahs...

Most days the Arabic service of Tehran radio beams messages of insurrection and rebellion across the waters of the Gulf. The target is the peoples of Arab oil-producing states, essentially Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

Western attention tends to be focused more on Iran's three-year military attempt to overthrow the government of Iraq but it should not be supposed that Ayatollah Khomeini has in any way forsaken his goal of spreading his Islamic revolution to other and possibly more vulnerable states.

Wealth and nationalism are both recent acquisitions in the Gulf region. Some members of ruling families can remember days of semi-poverty during World War II when their economies had been shattered by the Japanese discovery of cultivated pearls and political guidance came from the British Resident.

Today their numbers remain small — the populations of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates who form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are less than 20 million — but their combined financial resources may not be far short of \$275 billion. Despite the sharp cutback in oil output they are still providing close to 15 per cent of the industrial world's requirements.

The well-co-ordinated explosion of six terrorist bombs in Kuwait this month (December) seems to be a timely reminder of both their vulnerability and Iran's ambitions, for there can be little doubt that the Iranian regime was behind the attacks.

Kuwait, which is scarcely more than a city state of about 1.5 million people, is geographically and politically exposed to the conflicts of the Gulf. It is only about 100

miles from the scene of some of the bitterest fighting in the Gulf war and its population is far from homogeneous.

As a wealthy Arab state, with reserves of over \$65 billion, Kuwait has the power to support Iraq, its brother Arab state, in the war. It has contributed at least \$6 billion in cash to the Iraqi war effort and still acts as an important supply route.

Yet Kuwait and its ruling Al-Sabah family have become increasingly uncomfortable in the role. Its own Shi'ite Muslim minority, co-religionists of Ayatollah Khomeini, tend to be rather ambivalent about the war. Practically, they enjoy the stability, wealth and relative political freedom of Kuwait. Emotionally, they tend in private conversation to give away their eagerness for confirmation of Iranian successes on the battlefield.

The Emir of Kuwait would much prefer the war not to become a domestic issue. His government cannot have been happy at warnings from Iran during the past three months that it considered the degree of support being given to Iraq threatened to make Kuwait a co-belligerent. The Iranian threat to stop and seal ships heading for Kuwait remains on the table.

During the first year of the Gulf war, Kuwait was bombed three times by Iranian aircraft. Although the targets were not very significant — two border posts and a gas-gathering station — and the Iranians claimed that the attacks had been carried out "in error," the message was clear enough.

The Kuwaitis feared the message was becoming even clearer during the becoming even clearer during the exchange of threats this autumn which marked the delivery to Iraq of French Super-Etandard aircraft of Mr. Yasser Arafat as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

equipped with Exocet missiles.

Although Kuwait's investment income would suffice to tide it over a closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the risk that the war with Iran may spill over into the rest of the Gulf preoccupied the summit meeting of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council in Qatar last month (November).

Quite extraordinary security measures were taken to protect the heads of state from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. This was partly because of the anxiety provoked in Qatar by the discovery a couple of months earlier of a cache of arms and explosives.

But it is also reflected in the fact that the GCC owes its existence largely to concern about external threats. The military weaker Gulf states wanted to free themselves at least partially from the influence of Iran and Iraq, and also to demonstrate to President Reagan that a U.S. military presence was not required on the ground to protect them from a Washington-perceived Soviet threat.

Kuwait prides itself that it is the most politically sophisticated of the GCC states and the most internationally oriented. Alone among them Kuwait holds elections to a National Assembly — admittedly with a very limited suffrage — and maintains relations with the Soviet Union.

To an extent this policy is dictated by the large Palestinian population in Kuwait, estimated at between 300,000 and 400,000.

Kuwait is still enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, but must be anxious about the effect on its population if lower growth rates are combined with a growing sense of physical unease.

Yet in the smaller Gulf states, where nationals are a minority of the population as in Kuwait, stability rests more on political factors than on the efficiency of the security forces. The Al-Sabah family's power rests on its ability to provide continued prosperity and stability, not on its police force.

The collapse of the unofficial Souq Almanakh stock exchange earlier this year, with paper debts of \$90 billion still in the process of being unscrambled, caused deep financial unease within the country. The unease was exacerbated because senior officials admitted openly that they had allowed the speculative wave of share-buying to proceed to counteract public concern over the Gulf war.

The world decline in oil prices and the fall in Kuwait's own production levels is also imposing financial restraint on the government after a decade of non-stop growth.

Kuwait still enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, but must be anxious about the effect on its population if lower growth rates are combined with a growing sense of physical unease.

Yet in the smaller Gulf states,

where nationals are a minority of the population as in Kuwait, stability rests more on political factors than on the efficiency of the security forces. The Al-Sabah family's power rests on its ability to provide continued prosperity and stability, not on its police force.

The political conservatism and timidity of the rich is visible elsewhere in the Gulf, and Iran must be hoping that it can undermine one regime the others will topple in succession. However, there is no evidence yet that Saudi Arabia, the real prize for the radicals, is showing signs of political strain, while Oman, under the pro-Western Sultan Qaboos, remains aggressively independent of Arab radicalism.

The United Arab Emirates — with seven member emirates — is holding together better than many people would have forecast 10 years ago, despite recent problems over the scale of budget cuts.

Bahrain and Qatar also appear outwardly politically calm. There is no evidence of any groundswell of domestic discontent with their leaderships. But all these states fear that they cannot for ever be isolated from the ferment in the region. — Financial Times feature

to be amputated because of the burns.

His wife later told him the man had spent the night in his hut rapping her.

A spokesman for the Defence Force in Pretoria confirmed that the two soldiers were fined \$40 at a court martial.

Near Mr. Mapasie's Kraal is the Mpungu Vlei clinic, where Ndara Kapitongo is recuperating from an alleged atrocity. Ndara Kapitongo, a frail man with bushmanlike features, said in an interview that two South African soldiers roasted him over a fire last June.

Speaking in Nyemba translated by a schoolteacher, Mr. Kapitongo said he was finishing dinner when two soldiers "came over to me and started beating me."

The soldiers then picked him up, one by his arms and the other by his legs, and held him over his own cooking fire before dropping him in the coals, he said.

He lost consciousness and woke up in a hospital, where his arm had

been severed.

Mr. Mapasie said three soldiers, two black and one white, came to his Kraal earlier this year and accused him of being SWAPO. He was roughed up and two rifles and an envelope containing 400 rand (\$350) were stolen, he said.

Holland moves to tighten check on tax evasion

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch tax dodgers are costing the Netherlands billions of dollars in lost revenue and the government is out to stop them by using, among other measures, random checks on bank accounts.

Its goal is to get back at least part of the enormous sums of "black money" — the amounts not declared to the tax man — circulating in the economy.

Some economists put the value of economic activity hidden from the government at 20 to 30 per cent of gross national product and say lost tax revenue runs into billions of dollars.

Showing traditional Dutch enthusiasm for individual enterprise, "black workers" range from pensioners doing jobs on the side to building companies fulfilling whole contracts without declaring them and savings dodges.

The problem in the Netherlands was dramatically highlighted this year by a banking scandal at Slavenburg's, a medium-sized Dutch bank now renamed Credit Lyonnais Nederland after the French bank which stepped in to rescue it.

Police raided the headquarters of the bank in February following allegations that clients were allowed to open accounts under false names, one way of hiding money from the tax office.

Most of the former board have now been charged with allowing bank employees to commit fraud and several senior bank officials face fraud charges.

The government, anxious to protect the good name of Dutch business as well as boost its revenues, has revealed a range of measures to deal with non-payment of tax. These include recruiting many more tax inspectors and tightening tax rules.

Increasing its inspection of companies' books in recent months, the government found it netted on average an extra \$130,000 in corporate tax for each extra visit its officers made to firms, though only part of this involved fraud.

The black economy exists in many countries, but economists say it appears particularly widespread in the Netherlands.

One reason, they say, are heavy taxes, with the average Dutch worker paying 35 per cent of his income to the state.

A further reason is the ease with which money deposited in banks could, until recently, be hidden from the tax office.

Until 1980, low to medium-income workers using a simplified tax form were asked only to declare their salary and interest income and the extent of their bank holdings.

A favourite way of hiding money is to buy interest-bearing savings certificates redeemable simply by "the holder".

Last year the government told banks to register the names of people buying the certificates, but they do not have to show identification and there is little to stop use of false names.

Since then the finance ministry has announced a controversial plan to check the bank accounts of 3,000 randomly selected Dutchmen to compare their interest income and the amount they eventually declared.

The check is expected to show that half fiddled their tax revenue specialists said.

The purpose is not to prosecute evaders but to help estimate the amount of black money in the economy and possibly indicate which of fighting fraud.

Mr. Andropov blamed poor planning and weak management

Andropov criticises industry

MOSCOW (R) — President Yuri Andropov has sharply criticised the performance of Soviet industry, saying the shortage of consumer goods is causing discontent among the population.

In a report to a plenum of the Communist Party central committee, the Kremlin chief said there had been improvements since he came into office 13 months ago but he was totally dissatisfied with the pace of change.

Mr. Andropov did not deliver his report in person to Monday's meeting. The text was published in the party daily Pravda Tuesday.

He admitted many problems stemmed from inherent weaknesses in the state planning system and also said that standards of environmental protection were poor.

Industry had been extremely slow at adjusting to the rising demands of the population, the Soviet leader said. This year Soviet factories had turned out 500,000 television sets, 115,000 radios and 250,000 cameras which were all defective.

Russians constantly complain of the lack of high quality electrical goods, clothing and furniture but it is unusual for Kremlin leaders to speak of popular discontent.

He said shortages and poor quality were the chief cause of what he called the "disgusting phenomenon" of black marketing, which would only be eliminated when people's material needs were properly met.

Turning to the environment, Mr. Andropov said the problem of ecological damage in the Soviet Union was acute. There was a lack of coordination between various ministries, with each of them shrugging off responsibility for the

and warned that in future industrial chiefs would be made more personally accountable for performance and penalised for shortcomings.

He said he expected a shake-up at all levels of economic administration, the replacement of inefficient personnel and improvements in worker-manager relations, which would create a more positive attitude among the industrial labour force.

The Soviet press is seldom frank about pollution but occasional report have referred to wholesale environmental disasters in some regions through the output of noxious gases and waste or the construction of dams and hydro-power plants.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic per-

formance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic

Namibian rebels launch offensive, Pretoria says

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African troops trying to pre-empt a push into Namibia (South West Africa) by what Pretoria estimates are up to 1,000 guerrillas clashed Monday with about 200 guerrillas in southern Angola, South Africa's Defence Force chief said Monday night.

Gen. Constand Viljoen told reporters the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas had fled when confronted by Pretoria's forces and sought the protection of Angolan troops.

Military analysts said the South African action, first disclosed last Friday, appeared to be the biggest operation against SWAPO since a full-scale invasion of southern Angola by South Africa in 1981 when Pretoria said 1,000 SWAPO and Angolan soldiers were killed.

SWAPO has conducted a 17-year sporadic bush war against South African control of Namibia, a vast mineral-rich territory which

Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations.

Gen. Viljoen said seven companies of from 120 to 140 SWAPO members each were heading south toward the Angolan border with Namibia and that South Africa would continue its Angolan operation until the SWAPO offensive was foiled.

Angola said Monday South African forces had occupied the town of Cassinga more than 200 kilometres north of the border and that Pretoria had deployed three motorised brigades, four artillery groups and 100 aircraft.

"We are deploying the necessary troops because we intend to

meet SWAPO as far north as possible so that we can prevent, if possible, their operation into Owambo (in northern Namibia) and further south," Gen. Viljoen said.

He denied Angolan reports that South African warplanes had been shot down in the action, but said they had been fired at by Soviet-made SAM-8 missiles.

SWAPO was benefiting from sophisticated weapons supplied to Angola by the Soviet Union, he added.

SWAPO guerrillas traditionally launch an offensive from bases in Angola against South African forces in Namibia about this time of year when rains and sprouting vegetation provide good bush cover.

South Africa normally has about 12,000 combat troops in the border area between Namibia and Angola while the South West Africa territory force, an integrated command, has about 14,000 men of Namibian origin under arms.

India's ruling party gets ready for next election

NEW DELHI (R) — About 10,000 delegates from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party were gathering in Calcutta Tuesday for a national convention that is likely to shape the party's platform for the next general elections.

The plenary session, the first in seven years, is being held in a giant indoor stadium in India's most populous city and will be attended by party representatives from across the country.

Congress (I) sources say the session will be crucial in refurbishing the party's image, dented by electoral setbacks and internal dissent.

The 66-year-old prime minister does not have to call elections until her current term expires in January 1985, but opposition groups and political commentators expect her to take advantage of

the country's fragmented opposition to hold polls earlier.

Analysts expect resolutions passed at the convention to form vital planks of the party's election manifesto.

Mrs. Gandhi is considering an invitation to meet President Reagan and Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to discuss disarmament, officials in New Delhi said Tuesday.

They said she had received the invitation Monday from United Nations General Assembly President Jorge Illesca. It asked Mrs. Gandhi, as head of the Non-Aligned Movement, to join talks with the U.S. and Soviet leaders aimed at reviving detente and halting the arms race.

An attempt by Mrs. Gandhi earlier this year to launch a similar initiative produced a lukewarm response.

London police warn shoppers

LONDON (R) — Police have told shoppers in London for traditional post Christmas sales Tuesday to be on their guard against possible bomb attack by Irish guerrillas.

The warning follows a Christmas day bomb which exploded in a litter bin near a main central London shopping street slightly injuring two passers-by.

Police said the bomb was probably planted by guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Thousands of bargain-hunters usually flock to London's major department stores for the price-cutting winter sales, which start Tuesday and continue into the New Year.

The head of the anti-terrorist police, Commander Bill Hucklesby, said the Christmas Day bomb appeared to be the latest in a series of bombings by Irish guerrillas.

5 expelled Soviets leave Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Five of 12 Soviet diplomats expelled by Bangladesh's military government left the country Monday, official sources said Tuesday.

The other seven will depart shortly, the sources said.

The government did not spell out the reason for the expulsions. But the order was given on Nov. 30, two days after anti-government violence flared in Dhaka.

Sources said the Soviet officials had been involved in non-diplomatic activity.

Although the government originally gave a verbal expulsion order, the Soviet embassy asked for a written demand and that delayed the departure.

Bangladesh kicked out three Soviet diplomats in 1981 after they were allegedly caught taking photographs of key installations outside of this capital.

Sources said one of those left Monday was Grouetou Gueorqui, consul general at the Soviet consulate in the port city of Chittagong. The other four were based in Dhaka and were identified as embassy First Secretary Edward Mikhailovich Schukin, cultural official V.I. Romashkin, assistant attaché Alexei Dedov and counsellor I.A. Krivogoz.

The sources said at least four of the dozen Soviet diplomats had been expelled by countries where they were earlier assigned on charges of spying.

The Soviet embassy, with more than 100 employees, including 36 diplomats, is the biggest foreign mission in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government also ordered the Soviet Cultural Centre here closed, but embassy officials said the centre was shut for renovation work.

Guinea quake toll could be over 300

ABIDJAN (R) — The death toll in last week's earthquake in Guinea, which has already reached at least 300, could rise even higher after fresh tremors over the weekend.

Provisional figures released on Saturday spoke of at least 300 dead, 200 missing and 150 seriously injured in last Wednesday night's major quake and the series of secondary tremors which shook the country intermittently up to Saturday.

The official Conakry Radio, monitored in Abidjan, reported that dozens more died when two more powerful tremors virtually flattened the small town of Koumbia, just west of Gaoual, on Saturday. Only five houses were left standing.

The radio said all but two of the country's 35 administrative areas were hit by the tremors and 16 villages were destroyed.

The Goual area, 300 kilometres north of the capital Conakry, took the full force of the major quake which measured 6.3 on the richter scale.

It said a major international relief operation was under way with help arriving from West Europe and neighbouring African countries.

Two teams of French rescue workers, whose alsatian dogs and sonar listening devices have saved dozens of trapped earthquake victims in many parts of the world, were due in Conakry Tuesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
© 1983 Tribune Company Syndicate, Inc.

BREAK THOSE COMMUNICATIONS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ QJ3
♦ J62
♦ AQ65
♦ Q63

WEST

♦ K52 ♦ 74
♦ K9543 ♦ A87
♦ 104 ♦ J987
♦ J8 ♦ 10975

SOUTH

♦ A1096
♦ Q10
♦ K32
♦ KA2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♡.

A little knowledge can be dangerous. West ducked a trick to maintain communications, only to find that he was communicating with declarer!

The auction was a matter of simple arithmetic, and the contract was normal. West led his fourth-best heart, East won the ace and returned the eight. To "maintain communications," West

allowed declarer to win the trick.

Declarer cashed three rounds of clubs to see if that suit would break, then tried three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. When the point trick failed to materialize in either minor suit, declarer could have tried the spade finesse. Instead, however, he opted for a sure line — he exited with a heart, giving West his tricks in the ant.

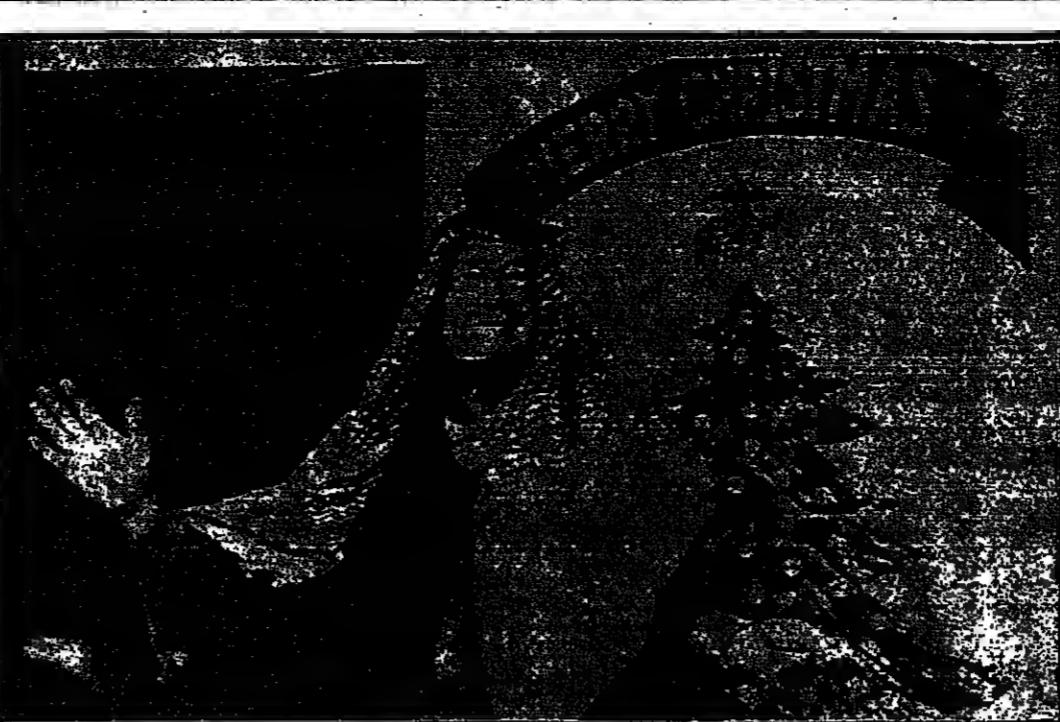
After taking his three heart tricks, West was down to nothing but spades. His forced return in the suit gave declarer his game-going trick.

The radio said all but two of the country's 35 administrative areas were hit by the tremors and 16 villages were destroyed.

The Goual area, 300 kilometres north of the capital Conakry, took the full force of the major quake which measured 6.3 on the richter scale.

It did not mention she is the only child of Jiang Qing who was given a suspended death sentence in 1981 for conspiring to usurp state power as leader of the extreme left "gang of four."

Li Na, aged about 40, wielded enormous power at the height of the cultural revolution in 1967.



HOPE AGAINST HOPE: Comedian Bob Hope dons an Arab headdress as he wishes Marines at Beirut International Airport a merry Christmas.

Hope made a surprise visit to the Marine headquarters after giving several performances offshore (A.P. wirephoto)

'Andropov may be very sick'

MOSCOW (R) — Yuri Andropov's failure to turn up for a major meeting of the Soviet leadership has raised fresh doubts about his ability to continue long in the Kremlin's top job, according to Western diplomats here.

Mr. Andropov, 64, did not attend Monday's opening of a two-day meeting of the Communist Party central committee. Instead, a long report by him was read out by a proxy.

It was the second time that Mr. Andropov's health forced him to break with precedent for a Soviet leader and stay away from an important event. Belief that his condition was serious grew after he failed to attend the Nov. 7 Red Square Parade.

Few analysts in the Soviet capital now expect Mr. Andropov to be well enough to make even a token appearance at Wednesday's session of the Supreme Soviet, the national parliament, of which he is president.

"Although this cannot be completely ruled out, it looks very unlikely. I think we have to assume that he is a very sick man," one

senior North American diplomat said.

Some Western diplomats said they thought there could be increased pressure within the party for Mr. Andropov to step down.

The central committee plenum was expected to end Tuesday, having accomplished most of its formal duties Monday with the hearing of Mr. Andropov's report and the approval of several changes in the ruling politburo.

These included the promotion

of two candidate members of the "inner cabinet": Vitaly Vorotnikov and Mikhail Solomennikov, full membership. Both are considered supporters of Mr. Andropov's policies.

Viktor Chebrikov, a former

deputy of Andropov's in the KGB

Security police and now head of that organisation, was elevated to the ranks of the politburo's candidate members.

Diplomats said Mr. Andropov's

position still seemed secure enough for him to have pushed through these promotions for his own supporters.

Mr. Vorotnikov, who already

holds the important position of prime minister of the Russian federation, largest of the 15 Soviet constituent republics, has been particularly tipped as a man to watch.

His speedy rise under Mr. Andropov has led some diplomats and Kremlin observers to believe that he could be the party leader's personal preference as successor.

Another man thought to be a proponent of Mr. Andropov's diplomatic brand of communist ideology, Yegor Ligachov, a senior official who has risen fast, was promoted to the influential position of a central committee secretary.

But there is no precedent for a Soviet leader retiring gracefully and some Western observers said the tone of Mr. Andropov's report, which dwelt exclusively on the economy, was not that of a man about to fade into the wings.

"He appears still keen to get the economy moving whether by his own impetus or by promoting into power the men he thinks can do it," one diplomat said.

200 die in U.S. during century's worst freeze

NEW YORK (R) — The worst Arctic storm of the century eased its killer grip on the United States Tuesday but forecasters said temperatures would plunge again in the north before the New Year.

Seven hundred people were stranded at a high school in northern New York State when the storm forced authorities to close a highway for two days.

"Mostly, it's a big inconvenience," said one Buffalo resident. "The shopping centres stayed open."

The National Weather Service said the cold spell set record low temperatures in dozens of American cities over Christmas, killed some 200 people, mostly in traffic accidents, and caused havoc in normally-mild fruit growing areas of the deep South.

In many parts of the country, numbing cold gave way to freezing rain and hazardous icing conditions.

Despite some relief from cold which sent thermometers tumbling to as low as 27 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 33 C) in Havre, Montana, temperatures were still below freezing in many areas.

The National Weather Service said the cold spell set record low temperatures in dozens of American cities over Christmas, killed some 200 people, mostly in traffic accidents, and caused havoc in normally-mild fruit growing areas of the deep South.

Ray Prewitt, spokesman for citrus growers in Texas' Rio Grande valley, said all oranges and grapefruit in the area were frozen and suitable only for pulping into juice.

President Marcos pardoned or commuted the sentences of 280 prisoners, including two foreigners jailed for drug offences, Tuesday in a Christmas clemency order, the presidential palace said.

A spokesman said the 280 did not include prisoners held for subversion or other politically-related charges.

Birth control practised on lionesses to counter African baby lion boom

By Nell Lewis
Reuter

ETOSHA PAN, Namibia (South West Africa) — Scientists at the Etosha national park, a southern African game reserve, have been giving contraceptives to lionesses in an experiment to correct an imbalance in the wildlife population.

Mr. Berry, chief biologist at the park, said he noticed the Etosha lions were multiplying in excessive numbers.

But there was a sharp drop in the numbers of wildebeest, a member of the antelope family which used to roam the area. The scientists found a variety of factors which were giving the park's predators an advantage in the struggle for survival.

Mr. Berry tried to correct the problem by putting lionesses of cub-bearing age on contraceptives.

He implanted five-centimetre rubber capsules in their neck muscles to release a constant flow of birth control hormones into their system.

The decision to experiment with contraceptives followed a detailed study to find out what was causing the unusual situation at Etosha.

The Etosha game park, one of the largest game reserves in the world, is about the same size as Massachusetts or Wales. At its centre is the Etosha salt pan, the vestige of a prehistoric salt lake,

which dried up centuries ago.

The pan, 129 kilometres across at its widest point, is a completely flat expanse of whitish, salty clay which becomes wet during the rainy season at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Berry said there were too many lions at Etosha because the deficit predator-prey balance had been significantly upset by man's intervention.

His team of scientists identified three main causes.

Etosha is totally fenced, which precludes the age-old seasonal migrations of the hooved animals for water. Secondly, numerous boreholes have been drilled to provide a permanent source of water for the animals which cannot follow the rains.

In addition, a tourist road has been built through the reserve and in this case Mr. Berry said, the backlash of disturbed nature took a subtle and unexpected but deadly form.

The numerous gravel pits used to build the road have proved an ideal alkaline breeding area for anthrax, a disease which can decimate hooved stock but to which the lion is immune.

Before fencing, the lion prides had to join the annual migrations of the wildebeest and many of the cubs died in the long, arduous treks. Nowadays, they have only to stake out the man-made waterholes to feed.

4 servicemen to sue Aquino witness

MANILA (R) — Four servicemen who escorted opposition leader Benigno Aquino from the aircraft that